

eminent Rabbi of the Middle Ages wrote: "all kinds of venomous animals, as serpents and scorpions." Still another Rabbi laid stress upon the presence of winged scorpions, a peculiar animal in some ways like the unicorn, figuring much in literature of all ages, but of which a specimen has never been found. Even Pliny speaks of the winged scorpion as absolutely deadly. Eben Ezra wrote: "all the wild beasts mingled in association, as lions, bears and leopards." A Portuguese Rabbi said: "a mixture of vermin." Dr. Geddes: "a swarm of beetles," but he at once proved his own ignorance by describing the beetle, the *Blatta aegyptiaca*, a voracious cockroach. Dr. T. M. Harris reviewed the situation judicially and decided that one particular species was meant, not a mixture of different animals. The septuagint settled upon the *kunomuia*. Michaelis insisted on *Tabanus*. Dr. J. D. Westwood, of Oxford, regarded it as *Culex* and argued his case. A Smithsonian expert has chosen *Hippobosca equina*, and claimed for the *zebug* of Ecclesiastes and Isaiah either *Hæmatopota pluvialis* or *Chrysops cæcutiens*. The common Arabic word for fly, *zimb*, is not often quoted in evidence. Much, however, has been written in claim of *arob* of *zebug* as the creature implied in the word of an Ethiopian translation, which by the way still survives to describe a terrible gadfly, tsaltsalya. This has been claimed to be the African fly alluded to in Isaiah, and has even been identified as the tsetse fly, its author asserting that this horse-killing parasite was known to the writer of Exodus.

At all this farrago the author of Exodus might well be astonished. He was a poet, not a natural historian, wherefore his allegory is all the more beautiful.

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## A KEY TO THE SPECIES OF DICTYOPHARA GERM.

BY EDMUND H. GIBSON, U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

The genus *Dictyophara* Germ. is represented in the United States by four species, all of which are common east of the Rocky Mountains and especially so in the south. However, they are seldom observed or captured in large numbers, and although plant feeders their exact economic status is not known.

*Dictyophara* belongs in the tribe Dictyopharini of the subfamily Dictyopharinae and may be distinguished from the only other two genera, *Scolops* Schaum. and *Phylloscelis* Germ. of the same tribe which occur north of Mexico, by its triangularly produced vertex.

This paper is based upon a large series of specimens in the collection of the U. S. National Museum.

**Dictyophara** Germ. *Dictyophara* Germar in Silb. Rev. Ent., I, p. 175, 1833; *Pseudophana* Burmeister, Handb., II, 1, p. 146, 1843; *Chanithus* Kolenati Mel. Ent., VII, p. 29, 1857; *Nersia* Stål, Bidr. Rio Jan. Hem., II, p. 62; 1858.

*Dictyophara* may be characterized as follows: Vertex produced triangularly with three carinae, the median one in certain species ending before the middle; three frontal carinae more or less parallel: pronotum short and emarginate on posterior border: forewings long, greatly exceeding the abdomen and more or less reticulate. Species usually bright green with but slight color markings or variations. The logotype of the genus is *europæa* Linn.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES.

1. Transverse veinlets of the forewings forming three nearly regular bands ..... *dioxys* Walk.  
Transverse veinlets of the forewings in no regular pattern ..... 2.
2. Length of vertex twice or more its basal width ..... *microrhina* Walk.  
Length of vertex slightly longer than its basal width ..... 3.
3. Frontal carinae meeting in an obtuse angle and tinged with black. Female plates short, extremely broad and rounding ..... *florens* Stål.  
Frontal carinae meeting in an acute angle and not tinged with black.  
Female plates long and narrow ..... *lingula* VanD.

**Dictyophara dioxys** Walk. *Dictyophara dioxys* Walker, List of Hom., Suppl., p. 61, 1858; *Nersia curviceps* Stål, Bidr. Rio Jan. Hem., p. 64, 1861.

This species may easily be separated from the other three species by the cross veinlets of the forewings forming three more or less regular bands. The vertex is hardly twice as long as wide and in this respect would come between *microrhina* and *lingula*. It is known to occur from New Jersey south and west through Texas.

**Dictyophara microrhina** Walk. *Dictyophara microrhina* Walker, List. Hom., Vol. 1, p. 315, 1851.

This is the largest of the North American species with a vertex more than twice as long as wide. The apical half of the forewing is very finely reticulated. The elevation of the apex of the vertex varies considerably within the species. This is the most common of our species and has a distribution from New York west to Kansas, south to Texas and Florida.

**Dictyophara florens** Stål. *Nersia florens* Stål, Bidr. Rio Jan. Hem., II, p. 64, 1861.

The most prominent specific characters of this species are its short vertex which is but little longer than its basal width, its wide front with carinæ meeting in an obtuse angle, and the carinæ being tinged with black just before and at their point of meeting. Specimens are at hand from Kansas, Texas, and Florida.

**Dictyophara lingula** Van D. *Dictyophara lingula* VanDuzee, Proc. Acad. Sci. Philadelphia, Dec., 1907.

Very similar to *florens* but without black markings near the apex of vertex or base of front. The frontal carinæ do not diverge before meeting as much as in *florens*. They meet in an acute angle. Length of the vertex is slightly more than its basal width. It is known to occur from New Jersey to Florida.

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#### OFFERTA ET DESIDERATA

WANTED.—No. Am. Cerambycidae and Buprestidae, especially *Agrilus*; will collect insects of any order in this locality for exchanges in above families. C. A. Frost, 26 Pond St., Framingham, Mass.

THE UNDERSIGNED will greatly appreciate receiving records of New Jersey species not listed in Smith's Insects of New Jersey.—Harry B. Weiss, 242 Raritan Ave., New Brunswick, N. J.

FINE SPECIMENS of the large Mantis, *Paratenodera sinensis*, collected at Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., offered in exchange for North American Lepidoptera.—Philip Laurent, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED.—North American Orthoptera from localities which are little known or in which but little collecting has been done. Material from the mountainous regions of the West particularly desired. M. Hebard, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED.—Sphingidae from any part of the world. Will purchase or exchange. B. Preston Clark, 55 Kilby St., Room 35, Boston, Mass.